

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, July 25, 2012, Public Session

Members present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bill Grace, Bob Keating, Dan McAuliffe, and Donna Jensen

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Lincoln Daley, Debbie Foss

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes

- Pat motioned, Bob seconded approval of the July 11, 2012 minutes with necessary corrections to Jean Jennings name if Donna can confirm that her name should be written as Pauly-Jennings, and adding the word walk after site in the description of 130 High Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat announced that Edie is resigning from the CC because she does not have the time to continue. She will write a letter of resignation and send it to the Selectmen.

The Local Government Center is taking nominations for the Municipal Volunteer of the Year award. Nominations should be sent to the LGC at registrations@nhlgc.org

Donna suggested that the CC work more with the boy and Girl Scout groups to get input on what they might be observing in the environment (invasives, rare species, etc.) as they are out in the community. Donna will talk to the scout masters to see if this is a potential connection.

The CC received a red ribbon from the Stratham Fair for its display on composting. We sold one compost bin.

Lincoln announced that the Planning Board approved, with conditions, the Bunker Hill Ave subdivision. The conditions pertinent to the CC included:

- placing stones and plaques around wetland areas
- a 30' wide utility easement. The developer will also work to minimize the disturbance on the slope as much as possible
- development of a trail system in coordination with the CC with a maximum slope is 10% to minimize erosion on trails. This will be undertaken in concert with the first house permit. A monitoring and maintenance plan will also be developed.
- commitment to improve existing vegetation with native species in the buffer area
- the public will have access to the Open Space Areas and the Village Green including, but not limited to, walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, running, bird watching and other passive outdoor recreational activities as provided in the Declaration of Protective Covenants.
- The Foss driveway will be separated from the roadway by approx. 76'

Lincoln presented a photo of a property on 16 Coach Road that depicts a wall eroding along a stream. He asked if the CC would like to go on a site walk, but Paul and CC agreed that Terry Barnes, building inspector, should first evaluate the situation and determine if the landowner needs DES wetland approval.

Tim Mason came before the PB regarding a development he is proposing on High St. Traffic, wetland buffer, encroachment on neighboring wells and location of septic areas, affordability and how it would affect neighbor home values were all discussed. At this time there is no action required by the CC.

Bill G gave an update on ESRLAC activities. Ron Woofchuck came before the committee to discuss the potential of removing invasive species along rivers. ESRLAC determined that it would need to do an inventory first and will be asking Doug Sigan of the DES invasive species program to do a presentation to the group. Peter Weleburger of "Rescue Great Bay" suggested ESRLAC support; however Stratham wants to remain neutral on this issue. The town did not receive a grant to monitor and measure non-point pollution sources. They will be holding the annual kayak event in Sept. with a date to be determined. It will possibly be BYO kayak this year and will be held at the Discovery Center and not Chapman's Landing. A salt marsh ecology workshop is also being planned.

We have not heard back from Edie regarding Caroline's children's' input on her memorial. Pat will contact her to try to get an answer.

Tim reported that the BOS has chosen a new Highway Agent, Colin Lavery, to replace Fred Hutton. Colin has an engineering degree and in making its decision, the BOS strongly considered the CC concerns re: excessive salting on the roadways.

Deb Foss asked if there had been any subdivisions in Stratham that were disapproved because of devaluation of adjacent properties. None are known. She also asked for a clarification of where the stones would be placed around the wetlands on the Makris property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held August 8, 2012

Respectfully submitted by
Pat Elwell, Vice-Chair